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## Article

# Modeling Viscosity and Density of Ethanol-Diesel-Biodiesel Ternary Blends for Sustainable Environment

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**Abstract:** Rapid depletion in fossil fuels, inflation in petroleum prices, and rising energy demand have forced towards alternative transport fuels. Among these alternative fuels, diesel-ethanol and diesel-biodiesel blends gain the most attention due to their quality characteristics and environmentally friendly nature. The viscosity and density of these biodiesel blends are slightly higher than diesel, which is a significant barrier to the commercialization of biodiesel. In this study, the density and viscosity of 30 different ternary biodiesel blends was investigated at 15 °C and 40 °C, respectively. Different density and viscosity models were developed and tested on biodiesel blends sourced from different feedstock's including palm, coconut, soybean, mustard, and calophyllum oils. The prognostic ability and precisions of these developed models was assessed statistically using Absolute Percentage Error (APE) and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE). The MAPE of 0.045% and 0.085% for density model and 1.85%, 1.41%, 3.48% and 2.27%, 1.85%, 3.50% for viscosity models were obtained on % volume and % mass basis. These developed correlations are useful for ternary biodiesel blends where alcohols are the part of biodiesel blends. The modeled values of densities and viscosities of ternary blends were significantly comparable with the measured densities and viscosities, which are feasible to avoid the harm of vehicles' operability.

**Keywords:** ternary blends; biodiesel; diesel; ethanol; models; density; viscosity

## 1. Introduction

The rapid depletion of fossil fuels has been a major concern for many decades, and about 80% of fossil fuels are already exhausted [1–5]. On the other hand, energy demand is increasingly growing due to the rapidly expanding population coupled with the increasing urbanization rate [6–8]. The global economy has been affected badly by the predominant energy crisis [9–12]. The developing countries' economies have been uncompetitive because of unavailability of useable energy [13–16]. Pakistan,

having vast agricultural land and a population approaching two hundred and twenty million, has the potential to produce renewable power on a large scale [17–19]. Fossil fuels are widely used to compensate this energy demand. Emissions associated with the use of these fossil fuels present another challenge. Fossil fuels are responsible for 85% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and 64% of total greenhouse gas emissions [20–26]. Biofuels, derived from a variety of natural resources, have recently emerged as an alternative energy source [27–29]. Biodiesel is gaining more popularity among alternative energy sources due to its comparable engine performance with reduced emissions [30–33]. Biodiesel has the potential to replace fossil fuels and eliminate energy crises.

Biodiesels are plagiaristic mono-fatty acid alkyl esters produced from different vegetable oils or animal fats, using a process recognized as transesterification [34–37]. Edible and nonedible oils have been used for the production of biodiesel and the physiochemical characteristics of biodiesels mainly depend upon its raw feedstock [38]. The most important properties of biodiesel are density and viscosity, which have a strong influence on the engine performance characteristics and combustion process [39,40]. Biodiesel has higher density and viscosity compared to high-speed diesel (HSD) that can cause serious engine problems when used in cold areas [41]. The higher density and viscosity can affect the process of atomization during biodiesel combustion, resulting in lower engine performance and increased NO<sub>x</sub> emissions [42]. The density of binary rapeseed biodiesel blends was observed as decreased by increasing the temperature from 273.15 K to 333.15 K, also with the addition of ethanol into binary blends [43]. Long-term use of higher viscosity fuel in engines can affect engine durability, and unburned hydrocarbon deposition can affect engine lubricants that may harm engines. In addition, fuels with higher viscosities need more power in the fuel pumping, and they also wear the injection system [44]. In colder regions, the viscosity of biodiesel increases, and the biodiesel sticks in fuel injectors [45]. The filter plugging problems were reported with the use of biodiesel due to an increase in viscosity at lower temperature [46].

With the introduction of alcohol in binary blends, the density and viscosity of biodiesel blends have been reduced to make ternary blends [47]. The addition of ethanol into binary blends makes them follow the quality standards concerning the density, viscosity, modelling, and simulation of the fuel injection and combustion process [48]. Ternary blends have physiochemical characteristics to be close to high-speed diesel with comparable engine performance with reduced engine emissions [49]. Ethanol has been recognized for the blending purpose due to its lower viscosity as compared to other alcohols. The numerous use of alcohols in the petroleum industry may require accurate and exact knowledge of the viscosities of alcohols in order to commercialize these ternary blends for the transportation purposes [50]. As ternary blends consist of ethanol-diesel-biodiesel, so the physiochemical characteristics, especially density and viscosity, of individual constituents are changed from each other; diesel consists of 200 types of hydrocarbons, biodiesels consist of 25 different long-chain fatty acid methyl or ethyl esters, and ethanol is considered as a pure substance [51]. The diesel-ethanol-biodiesel ternary blends have the potential to use as alternative fuels [52,53]. Reliable data on the biodiesel viscosity as well as specific viscosity models incorporating temperature dependence are very significant in the creation of combustion models as well as designing, simulation, and optimization of equipment including reactors, mixing vessel being used in the combustion processes [54]. Different correlations have been developed for the prediction of density and viscosity of liquid blends. The interaction coefficients can be considered as negligible for the viscosity prediction of hydrocarbon blends; in this case, viscosity is considered as an additive quantity and it has been calculated through an ideal additive model. To develop an interaction among the fatty acid methyl esters, small interaction coefficients were used, and the same interactions were used for diesel and biodiesel blends [55,56]. When alcohols are blended with diesel and biodiesel, the individual species react strappingly and the interaction parameters attained from experiments should be considered. The increasing quantity of alcohol in ternary blends shows a nonlinear decrease in the kinematic viscosity. The ethanol content less than 36% by volume justifies the diesel fuel quality standards [57,58]. Several temperature-dependent viscosity and density models have been reported in the literature for the biodiesels sourced from various different oils.

Kay's rule, simple and weighted semi-logarithmic model, Refutas model was used for viscosity and linear and polynomial regression, by free version of the Rackett equation and, by group contribution methods, was used for density determination of ternary blends [59,60].

Three correlations were proposed for the prediction of kinematic viscosity of fatty acid methyl esters in a wide range of varying temperatures; one correlation was used for saturated, and two correlations were used for unsaturated species [61]. The dynamic viscosity of different binary and ternary biodiesel blends were predicted using a three-parameter equation, the prediction error of  $\pm 3\%$ , 3.7% was observed for the biodiesel binary and ternary blends, respectively [62]. It becomes challenging to predict the exact value of density and viscosity of biodiesel blends due to their different characteristics. Indiscriminate correlations have been used to predict the density and viscosities of liquid blends [63]. In these correlations, viscosities are assumed to be an additive quantity and it can be modeled by ideal additivity method. To develop a viscosity model for biodiesel-diesel blends, the interaction coefficients of long-chain fatty acid methyl esters have been accounted using small interaction coefficients, while to develop a viscosity model for ethanol-diesel-biodiesel, the interaction parameters were attained from experimental statistics and needed to satisfy the ideal additivity model [57,64].

In this present study, five different types of biodiesels including palm biodiesel (PBD), soybean biodiesel (SBD), coconut biodiesel (CBD), calophyllum biodiesel (CaBD) and mustard biodiesel (MBD) were prepared, and then six different ethanol-diesel-biodiesel ternary blends with 92%, 84%, 76%, 68%, 55%, 45% by volume diesel and 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 30%, and 40% by volume biodiesel and 3%, 6%, 9%, 12%, and 15% by volume ethanol were used to compute densities and viscosities of the blends and developed an interaction among the constituents of these ternary blends. These ternary blends contain low content of alcohols due to lower value of cetane number of ethanol; the ternary blends with higher content of ethanol are not feasible for diesel engines [49]. The density of ethanol-diesel-biodiesel blends was measured and modeled using different correlations including Key's mixing equation (KED) and a new developed density model with three parameters obtained by the regression analysis; these density models are used for the calculation of densities of ternary blends at 15 °C. Although, the viscosity of ethanol-diesel-biodiesel blends were measured and modeled using four different viscosity models including the Grunberg–Nissan model and three newly developed models using regression analysis, exponential regression analysis, and log–log regression analysis with three, four, and five parameters, respectively. In density and viscosity models, both mass fraction and volume fraction analysis were performed. These models were evaluated using a statistical tool known as Absolute Percentage Error (% APE) and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (% MAPE).

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Biodiesel Blends and Characterization

Biodiesel production and characterization of pure alcohols, biodiesel, and HSD were carried out at the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, (New Campus). HSD used in this study was supplied from Shell (Pakistan) and had zero oxygen content with properties within the range identified by Pakistan's fuel supplier agencies. Biodiesel used in this study was sourced from palm, soybean, coconut, mustard, and calophyllum oils. These raw oils are converted into biodiesel through the transesterification process in the presence of homogeneous catalyst KOH and methanol. The operating parameters of the transesterification process were kept, reaction temperature of 57.50 °C, catalyst concentration of 1 wt.%, methanol-to-oil ratio of 8.50:1, reaction speed of 600 rpm, and reaction time of 2 h. Alcohols used in this work were purchased from Central Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. Pakistan. The purity of alcohol used in this work was 99.9%. The composition of tertiary blends used in this work is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Composition of tertiary blends used in this study.

Name	Diesel (%)	Biodiesel (%)	Ethanol (%)
D100	100	0	0
D92B5E3	92	5	3
D84B10E6	84	10	6
D76B15E9	76	15	9
D68B20E12	68	20	12
D55B30E15	55	30	15
D45B40E15	45	40	15

The physicochemical characteristics of HSD, biodiesels, and ethanol are shown in Table 2. Acid value is the representation of residual acid in fuel; the physicochemical properties of the fuel may be altered with higher acid value [65]. The acid value of all biodiesels was observed within the ASTM standards specified limits, ranging from 0.20 to 0.30 mg KOH/g. Biodiesel with high saturation can cause higher flash-point value with poor cold flow properties [66]. Palm methyl ester (PME) has a medium level of saturation, due to which it has moderate flow properties and possesses higher viscosity and density as compared to the HSD [67]. The composition of any biodiesel depends upon the feed stock oil used for the production. The composition of fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) of PBD, CBD, SBD, MBD, and CaBD were determined using an Agilent 6869 gas chromatograph and mass spectrum (GCMS). Physiochemical characteristics of different biodiesels and bioethanols used in this study are illustrated in Table 2, while the (FAME) composition with their saturation levels of PBD, CBD, SBD, MBD, and CaBD are shown in Table 3. The GCMS analysis revealed that palm biodiesel consists of 44.51%, 42.43%, and 13.06% saturated, monounsaturated, and polyunsaturated fatty acids, respectively. Coconut biodiesel has the highest level of saturated fatty acids of 87.5%, and mustard biodiesel has the lowest level of saturated fatty acids of 5% with the highest level of monounsaturated of 74.3%; maximum polyunsaturated fatty acids were identified in CaBD with a value of 56.3%.

**Table 2.** Physicochemical characteristics of HSD, biodiesels, and bioethanol.

5	Properties	Test Standard	Measurement Uncertainty	Diesel	PBD	CBD	SBD	MBD	CaBD	Ethanol
1	Density at 15 °C (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	ASTM D4052	±0.1 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	836	859	856	866	862	872	776
2	Viscosity at 40 °C (mm <sup>2</sup> /s)	ASTM D7042	±0.30%	3.70	4.5	2.79	4.45	5.92	5.25	1.14
3	Calorific value (MJ/kg)	ASTM 4809	±0.1%	44.54	40.90	39.10	39.88	40.71	39.91	28.85
4	Flash point (°C)	ASTM D93	±0.1 °C	78	183	167	159	150	173	12.2
5	Pour point (°C)	ASTM D97	±0.1 °C	8	16	−3.5	−4	−17	9	−114
6	Cloud point (°C)	ASTM D2500	±0.1 °C	9	12	2	3	5	10	-
7	Oxygen stability (h)	ASTM D7462	±0.01 h	59.1	3.92	8.14	3	15.92	3.18	1.5
8	Cetane index	ASTM D4737		48	61	63.52	51	76	56.3	8
9	Iodine value (g I/100 g)	ASTM D1959		-	61	15.76	129.8	102	82.1	-

**Table 3.** Composition of different biodiesels.

Common Name	Structure	PBD	CBD	SBD	MBD	CaBD
Methyl Caproate	C6:0		0.3	0.1		
Methyl Caprylate	C8:0		6.5	0.1		
Methyl Caprate	C10:0		6	0.1		
Methyl Laurate	C12:0	0.14	42.1	0.1		
Methyl Myristate	C14:0	1.05	17.4	0.1		0.1
Methyl Palmitate	C16:0	38.84	11.3	10.5	1.9	14.9
Methyl Palmitoleate	C16:1	0.22	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Methyl Stearate	C18:0	4.08	3.8	4.3	1.2	17.2
Methyl Oleate	C18:1	42.21	9.2	25	12.7	38.2
Methyl Linoleate	C18:2	12.81	3	51.5	12.3	27.6
Methyl Linolenate	C18:3	0.25	<0.1	6.8	7.2	0.3
Methyl Arachidate	C20:0	0.4	0.2	0.4	1	0.9
Methyl Eicosenoate	C20:1		<0.1	0.2	6.4	0.2
Methyl Eicosadienoate	C20:2				0.4	
Methyl Eicosatrienoate	C20:3				0.1	
Methyl Behenate	C22:0		<0.1	0.4	0.9	0.3
Methyl Erucate	C22:1		<0.1	0.1	53.7	
Methyl Docosadienoate	C22:2				0.8	
Methyl Lignocerate	C24:0		<0.1	0.2		0.1
Methyl Nervonate	C24:1				1.3	

## 2.2. Density and Viscosity Measurement

The density and viscosity of ethanol-diesel-biodiesel ternary blends were measured at 15 °C and 40 °C according to ASTM standards D4052 and D7042, respectively, using SVM 3000 viscometer. Each sample was tested three times while keeping the standard deviation  $\pm 0.0005$ ; however, the effect of temperature variation on density and viscosity of individual biodiesels, diesel, and ethanol was also determined. The temperature range for biodiesels and diesel was kept at 15 °C to 105 °C, and for ethanol it varied from 15 °C to 75 °C.

## 2.3. Equations for Density and Viscosity Modeling

The equations used to predict the density of ethanol-diesel-biodiesel blends were based on a Kay's mixing rule (KED), in which the density of the blends was determined using the individual characteristics of the components of the blends [68]. The KED equation is described below:

$$\rho_{blend} = \rho_D \times D + \rho_{BD} \times BD + \rho_{EtOH} \times EtOH \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho_{blend}$  is the predictable density of the blend,  $\rho_D$ ,  $\rho_{BD}$ ,  $\rho_{EtOH}$  are the density of the diesel, biodiesel, and ethanol, respectively, and  $D$ ,  $BD$ ,  $EtOH$  are the mass fraction or volume fraction of diesel, biodiesel, and ethanol, respectively. Another mathematical model was developed with the help of regression analysis of higher determination coefficients and standard deviations for the prediction of biodiesel mixes. This model has been tested to calculate the ultimate density of the blends at 40 °C. The mathematical equation of this model is shown below:

$$\rho_{blend} = a \times D + b \times BD + c \times \rho_{BD} + X \quad (2)$$

where,  $D$  is the percentage fraction of diesel,  $BD$  is the percentage fraction of biodiesel,  $\rho_{BD}$  represents the density of the individual biodiesel in ternary blends and  $(a, b, c, X)$  are regression parameters. Both % volume and % mass analysis were tested on both KED and density model.

To investigate the viscosity of the diesel-biodiesel-ethanol blends, (Grunberg–Nissan) correlation with three interaction parameters was used, and three new mathematical models were developed for



the determination of viscosities of blends based on regression analysis, exponential regression analysis, and log–log regression analysis.

$$\ln(\eta_v) = D \times \ln(\eta_D) + BD \times \ln(\eta_{BD}) + EtOH \times \ln(\eta_{EtOH}) + D \times BD \times G_{D \times BD} + BD \times EtOH \times G_{BD \times EtOH} + EtOH \times D \times G_{EtOH \times D} \quad (3)$$

where,  $\eta_v$  represents the kinematic viscosity of the ternary blends ( $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ ),  $\eta_D$ ,  $\eta_{BD}$ , and  $\eta_{EtOH}$  represent the kinematic viscosities of the diesel, biodiesel, and ethanol, respectively,  $D$ ,  $BD$ ,  $EtOH$  are the mass fraction or volume fraction of diesel, biodiesel, and ethanol, respectively, and  $G$  represents the interaction coefficients.

The newly developed models were named as viscosity model 1, viscosity model 2, and viscosity model 3. In viscosity model 1, the values of the constants used was calculated from the slope where the coefficients were obtained by the regression analysis. This model predicts the effects of each of the individual components on the viscosity of the final ternary blend. The higher value of  $R^2$  in this model represents that this model is a very good fit for calculating the viscosities of blends. The mathematical form of this model is shown below in Equation (4).

$$\ln(\eta_{blend}) = a \times \ln(D) + b \times \ln(BD) + c \times \ln(\eta_{BD}) - d \times \ln(EtOH) + X \quad (4)$$

Viscosity model 2 was more accurate based on exponential regression analysis, and it was established as a decent model for the prediction of kinematic viscosity of ternary blends at 40 °C. The mathematical form of this model is illustrated in Equation (5), with a low value of standard deviation.

$$\ln(\eta_{blend}) = a \times (D) + b \times (BD) + c \times \ln(\eta_{BD}) - X \quad (5)$$

Viscosity model 3 was more suitable and required less effort for obtaining the viscosity of blends. In this model, the variables including the percentages of the discrete constituents were reserved the same, with the variables including individual viscosities being modified to each component's density. By doing this analysis, an optimum model was identified with suitable  $R^2$  and standard deviation. The mathematical form of this model is shown in Equation (6) below:

$$\ln(\eta_{blend}) = -a \times \ln(D) - b \times \ln(BD) + c \times \ln(EtOH) - d \times \ln(\rho_{BD}) + e \times \ln(\rho_{blend}) - X \quad (6)$$

$\eta_{blend}$  and  $\rho_{blend}$  represent the viscosity and density of the final ternary blend,  $D$ ,  $BD$  and  $EtOH$  represent the percentage mass or percentage volume portion of diesel, biodiesel, and bioethanol in the ternary blend, respectively,  $\rho_{BD}$  represents the density of the biodiesel. This viscosity model was developed using log–log regression analysis. The values of the regression parameters, SD, and  $R^2$  are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Constant values of regression parameters, SD, and  $R^2$  used in the proposed models.

Equation	a	b	c	d	e	X	SD	$R^2$
Equation (2)	0.6554	0.9397	0.1180	-	-	682.825	0.4535	0.9823
Equation (4)	0.0521	0.0448	0.2060	0.13	-	0.7423	0.0738	0.9202
Equation (5)	0.0171	0.0190	0.0469	-	-	0.6761	0.0589	0.9468
Equation (6)	0.246	0.0610	0.0006	0.3268	21.8024	143.4953	0.143	0.7207

#### 2.4. Evaluation of Models

The analytical capacity and precision of the developed density and viscosity models were observed with the help of some statistical tools: Absolute Percentage Error (APE), Mean Absolute Percentage

Error (MAPE), Standard deviation (SD), and coefficients of determinations ( $R^2$ ) are illustrated in Equations (7)–(10).

$$APE(\%) = \frac{|x_{calc} - x_{expt}|}{x_{expt}} \times 100 \quad (7)$$

$$MAPE(\%) = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|x_{calc_i} - x_{expt_i}|}{x_{expt_i}} \times \frac{100}{N} \quad (8)$$

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_{calc_i} - \bar{x}_{expt})^2}{N - 2}} \quad (9)$$

$$R^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_{calc_i} - \bar{x}_{expt})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_{expt_i} - \bar{x}_{expt})^2} \quad (10)$$

where,  $x_{expt}$  and  $x_{calc}$  represent the density and viscosity values obtained from experiments and calculated respectively from the proposed models,  $\bar{x}_{expt}$  represents the average value of the measured densities and viscosities, and  $N$  shows the total number of observations.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Effect of Temperature on the Density of Diesel, Ethanol, and Biodiesels

Temperature has been considered as an important factor to influence the density of the fuels; the variations in densities of biodiesels, HSD, and bioethanol with temperature are shown in Figure 1. The density of all biodiesels, diesel, and bioethanol decreased with the increase in temperature from 15 °C to 105 °C; at 15 °C, the density of HSD and bioethanol was observed to be 852 kg/m<sup>3</sup> and 797 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. The maximum density at any temperature was observed for CaBD, which are found to be 890 kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 15 °C and 847 kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 105 °C. The density of CaBD is found to be 4.25% and 11.5% greater than HSD and bioethanol, respectively, while the density of CBD is found to be 2.7% and 9.8% higher than HSD and bioethanol, respectively.

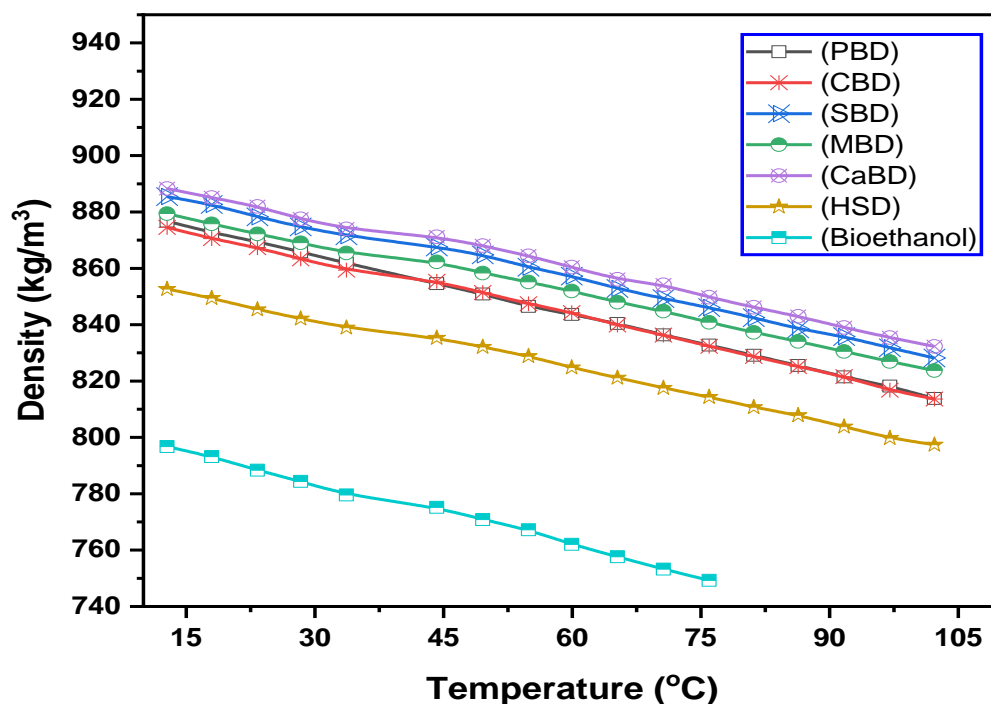


Figure 1. Effect of temperature on the density of diesel, biodiesel, and bioethanol.



A general Equation (11) was developed for calculating the densities of HSD, PBD, CBD, SBD, MBD, CaBD, and bioethanol, respectively, at varying temperature ranges from 15 °C to 105 °C. This equation has been used for calculating the densities of respective biodiesels, HSD, and bioethanol with great precision due to their higher coefficients of determinations.

$$\rho = -f \times T + Y \quad (11)$$

where,  $\rho$  represents the density,  $f$  is a regression parameter, and  $Y$  is constant value. The values of these parameters for biodiesels, HSD, and bioethanol are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Values of regression parameters, constants, and  $R^2$  for biodiesels, HSD, and bioethanol.

Density	f	Y	R <sup>2</sup>	Density	f	Y	R <sup>2</sup>
$\rho_{D100}$	0.697	863.10	0.9999	$\rho_{MBD100}$	0.708	890.13	0.9999
$\rho_{PBD100}$	0.729	888.40	0.9999	$\rho_{CaBD100}$	0.720	899.90	0.9999
$\rho_{CBD100}$	0.778	888.12	0.9999	$\rho_{EtOH99.9\%}$	0.897	812.10	0.9999
$\rho_{SBD100}$	0.731	897.73	0.9999				

### 3.2. Effect of Bioethanol on Density of the Binary Biodiesel Blends

The density of biodiesel blends is higher than HSD and it increases as the quantity of biodiesel in blends increases. When bioethanol is added in binary blends of biodiesel blends, it reduces the ultimate density of ternary blends. The concentration of ethanol in the ternary blends has been linked with the reduction of the density of the final blends [69]. Different concentrations of bioethanol 3%, 6%, 9%, 12%, and 15% by volume were added in binary biodiesel blends, and it was observed that density of ternary blends decreases slightly with increasing concentration of bioethanol. Figure 2a represents the variation in density of pure PBD and ternary biodiesel blends with changing concentrations of diesel, biodiesel, and bioethanol. The measured density of PBD is 876.4 kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 15 °C, which is shown as a base line in Figure 2a, and the density of biodiesel blend varies from 849.7 kg/m<sup>3</sup> to 852.4 kg/m<sup>3</sup> with changing the concentrations of diesel, biodiesel, and bioethanol. The same trends have been shown for the KED model and density correlation developed for the calculations of density of ternary blends on both % volume and % mass bases. Figure 2b,c for CBD and SBD shows the same trends; the density of ternary blends decreases up to 30:15 and, after that, increases with the increasing concentration of biodiesel. Figure 2d shows a slight increase in density with the small addition of bioethanol in the MBD blend and then starts to decrease with the higher amount of ethanol, while Figure 2e represents totally opposite behavior where density of CaBD blends increases up to 30:15 and, after that, it starts to decrease with the addition of more biodiesel in CaBD blends by keeping the concentration of bioethanol constant.

### 3.3. Evaluation of Density Models

Both KED and density model were tested using statistical tools such as % APE. The results of APE of all blends of five different types of biodiesels with % volume and % mass are shown in Figure 3. For the determination of the most suitable model of the density, the APEs were calculated for each value of KED and density model. Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) of 0.15% and 0.22% was observed for KED model using % volume and % mass fractions, respectively. On the divergent, using % volume and % mass in the newly developed density model gives MAPE of only 0.045% and 0.085%, respectively. Figure 3 shows the calculative precision of these two models; APEs for all types of biodiesels were calculated on both % volume and % mass bases. It was observed that, for both models using % volume, all biodiesel blends give smaller APE as compared to % mass. The proposed density model has been proved to be the best model for the determination of the densities of ternary blends. This density model shows some deviation with % mass, as the concentration of bioethanol and

biodiesel increases in ternary blends; however, on the basis of % volume, this model is suitable for the determination of density of ternary blends containing 15% bioethanol with 30% and 40% biodiesel.

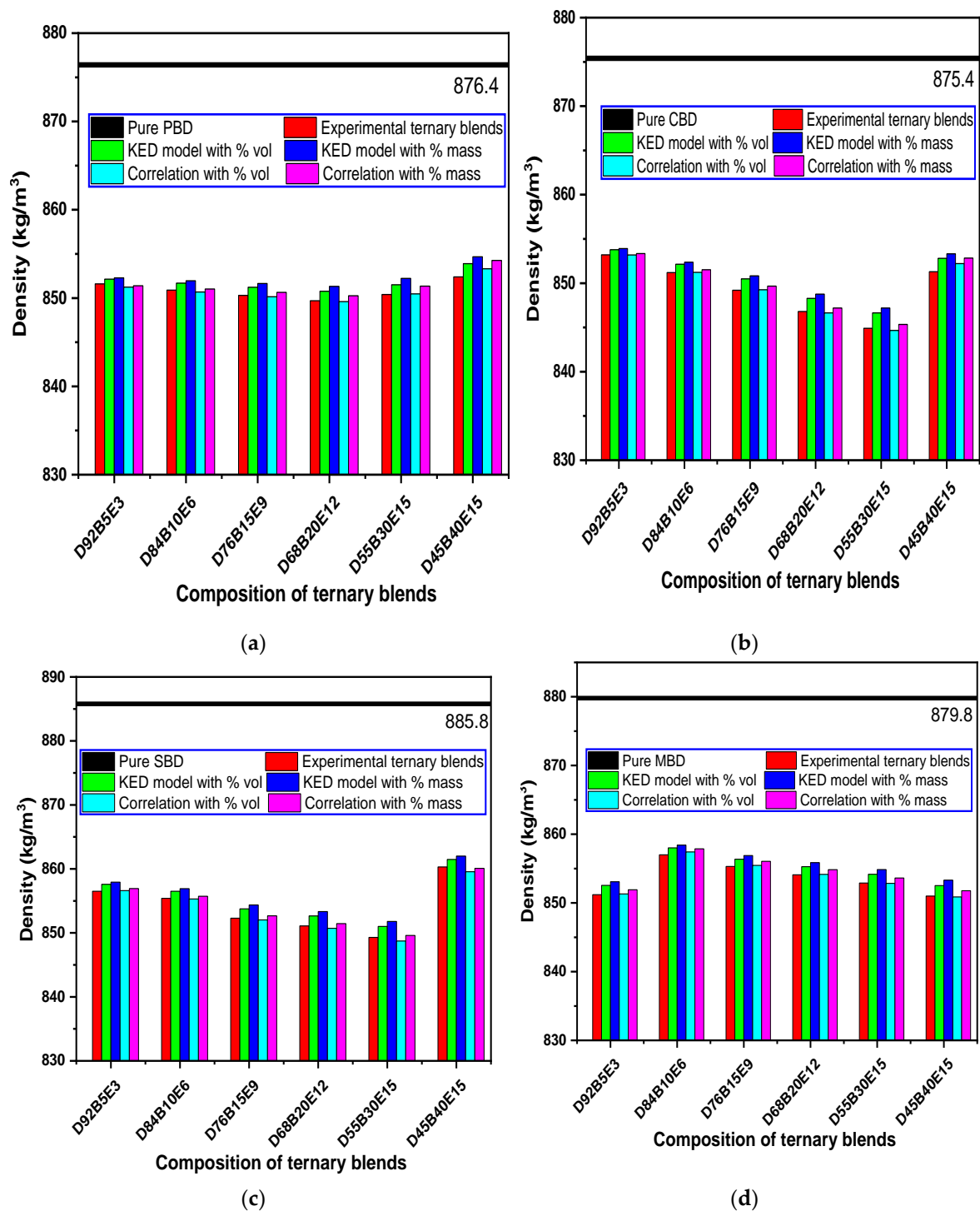
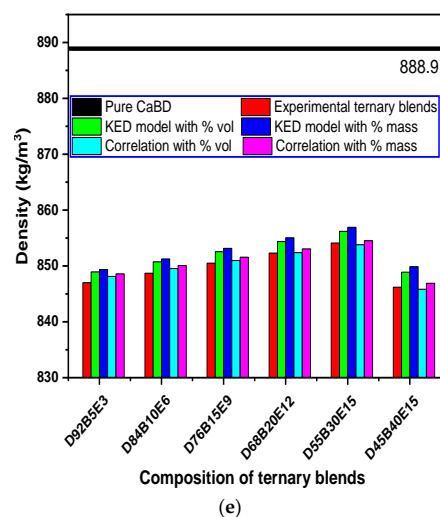
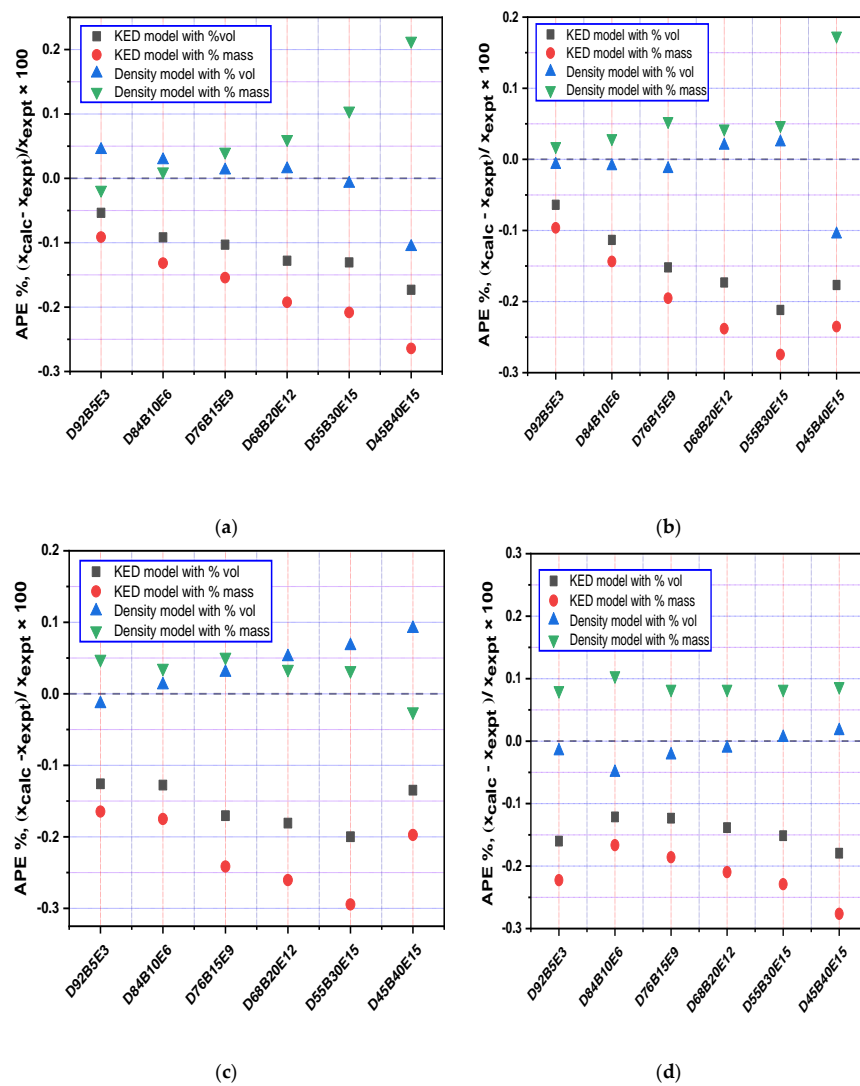


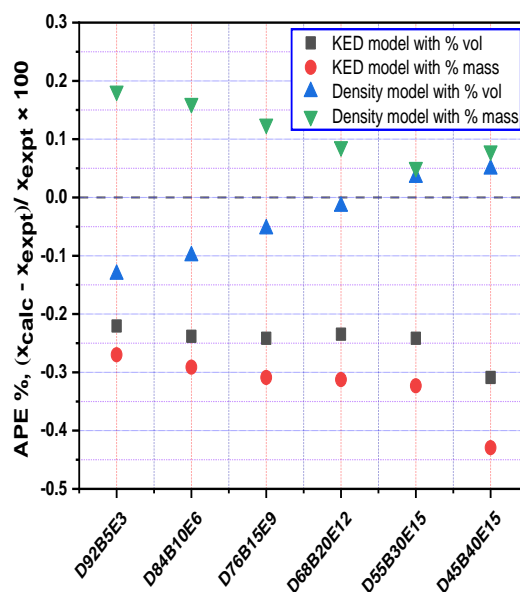
Figure 2. Cont.



**Figure 2.** Density variation of (a) PBD, (b) CBD, (c) SBD, (d) MBD, (e) CaBD blends with diesel and bioethanol by experimental method, KED model, and density correlation.



**Figure 3.** Cont.



(e)

**Figure 3.** APEs for KED and density model of ternary biodiesel blends (a) PBD, (b) CBD, (c) SBD, (d) MBD, (e) CaBD using % volume and % mass fraction.

### 3.4. Effect of Temperature on the Viscosity of Diesel, Ethanol, and Biodiesels

Variation in kinematic viscosities of HSD, bioethanol, and five biodiesels with temperature are shown in Figure 4. MBD shows the maximum density at all temperature ranges from 15 °C to 105 °C as compared to other biodiesels, HSD, and bioethanol. The viscosity of all fuels starts to drop with the increase in temperature. The viscosity of SBD has been found to be nearest to the HSD viscosity (3.6576 mm<sup>2</sup>/s), which is 4.1775 mm<sup>2</sup>/s. At 15 °C, the viscosity difference of all fuels has been observed to be high, but with the increase in temperature this difference starts to reduce and at 105 °C, viscosities of all fuels seem to be same except bioethanol. At 78 °C, bioethanol starts to boil. The viscosity pattern of all fuels with the increasing temperature shows nonlinear behavior, unlike density pattern which is linear. To develop more precise viscosity models, the natural log of all viscosity values was determined. After that, Equation (12) was developed for the calculation of viscosity of HSD, all biodiesels, and bioethanol from 15 °C to 105 °C. The higher coefficients of determination specifies that these models are appropriate and best fit in the calculation of viscosity of all components of ternary blends.

$$\log \eta = -f \times T + Y \quad (12)$$

where, T indicates the temperature (°C) and  $\eta$  indicates the kinematic viscosity (mm<sup>2</sup>/s), f is regression parameter and y is a constant value. Table 6 represents the corresponding values of regression parameters, constants, and R<sup>2</sup> for biodiesels, HSD, and bioethanol.

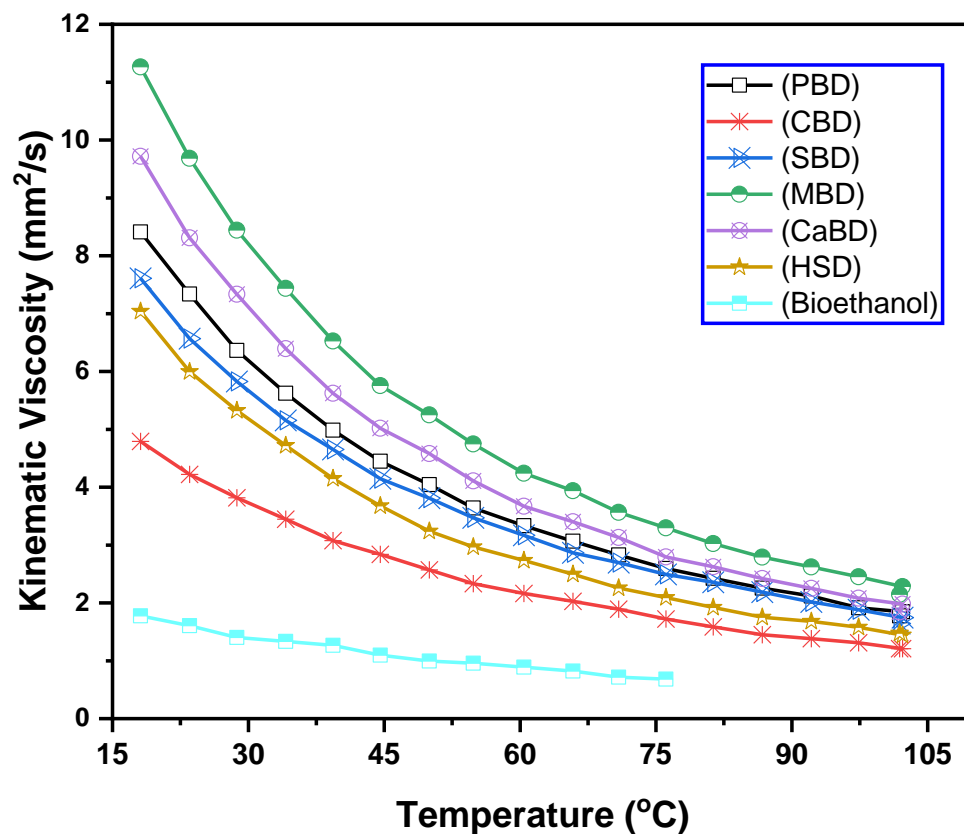


Figure 4. Effect of temperature on the viscosity of diesel, biodiesels, and bioethanol.

Table 6. Values of regression parameters, constants, and  $R^2$  for biodiesels, HSD, and bioethanol.

Viscosity	f	Y	$R^2$	Viscosity	f	Y	$R^2$
$\ln \eta_{D100}$	0.018	2.092	0.9829	$\ln \eta_{MBD100}$	0.019	2.574	0.9846
$\ln \eta_{PBD100}$	0.018	2.280	0.9850	$\ln \eta_{CaBD100}$	0.019	2.423	0.9843
$\ln \eta_{CBD100}$	0.017	1.712	0.9863	$\ln \eta_{EtOH99.9\%}$	0.018	0.809	0.9882
$\ln \eta_{SBD100}$	0.017	2.174	0.9857				

### 3.5. Effect of Bioethanol on Viscosity of the Binary Biodiesel Blends

Kinematic viscosity of ternary biodiesel blends is influenced by changing the concentration of biodiesel and bioethanol [70]. Blends with higher concentrations of biodiesel have higher viscosity, and with the addition of bioethanol in binary blends, the kinematic viscosity starts to decrease. Figure 5a represents the kinematic viscosity of pure PBD and its ternary blends with different concentrations of diesel-biodiesel-bioethanol; the kinematic viscosities of PBD and ternary blend D92B5E3 measured with viscometer were observed to be 4.4844 mm<sup>2</sup>/s and 3.3298 mm<sup>2</sup>/s at 40 °C, respectively. Kinematic viscosity of these ternary blends was precisely calculated by the Grunberg model and by three newly developed models on the bases of % volume and % mass. The kinematic viscosity of D92B5E3 blend varies by 2.38%, 3.72%, and 5.39% on % volume bases and by 1.61%, 4.06%, and 5.67% on % mass bases for developed viscosity models 1, 2, and 3 as compared to the Grunberg model.

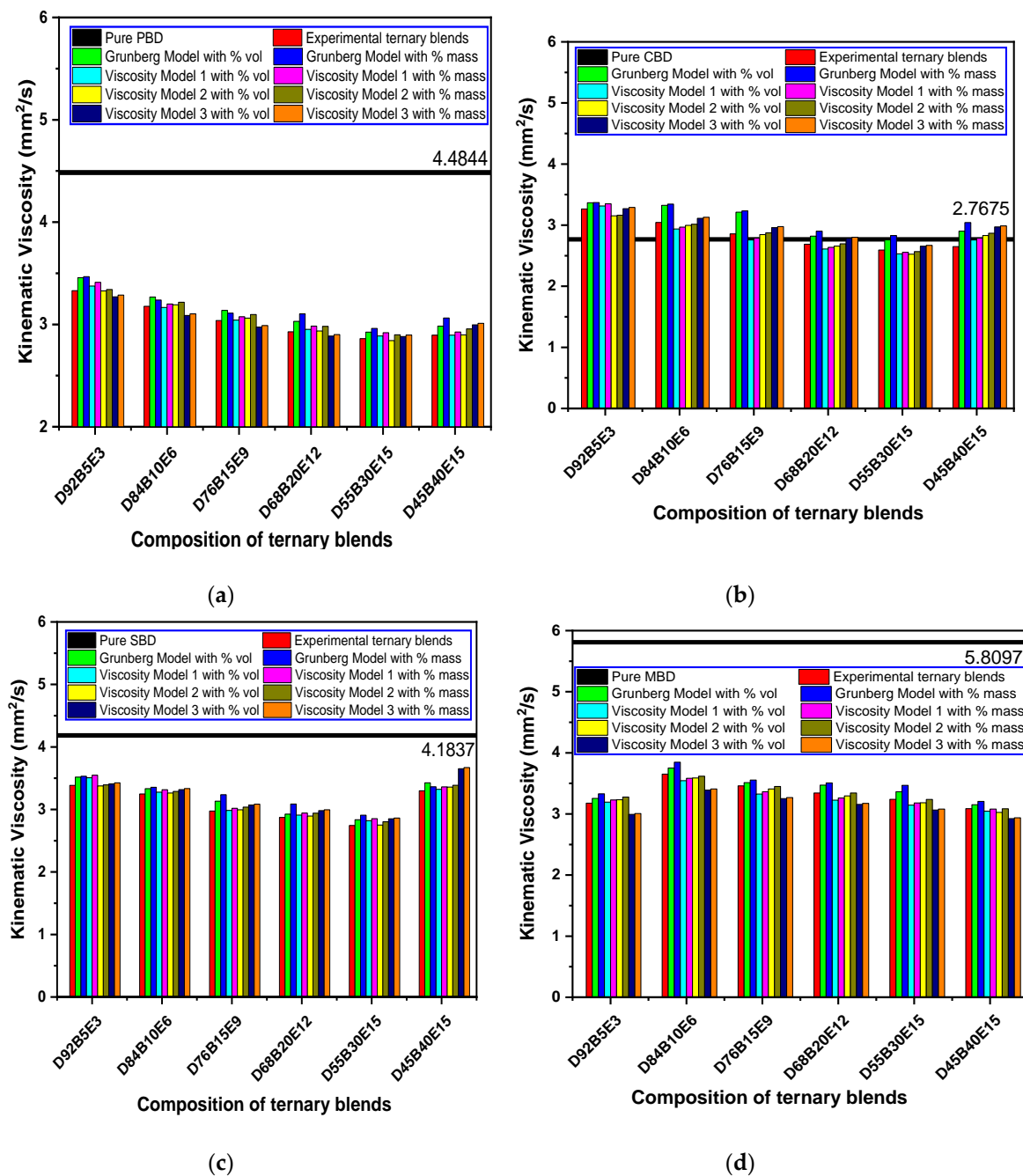
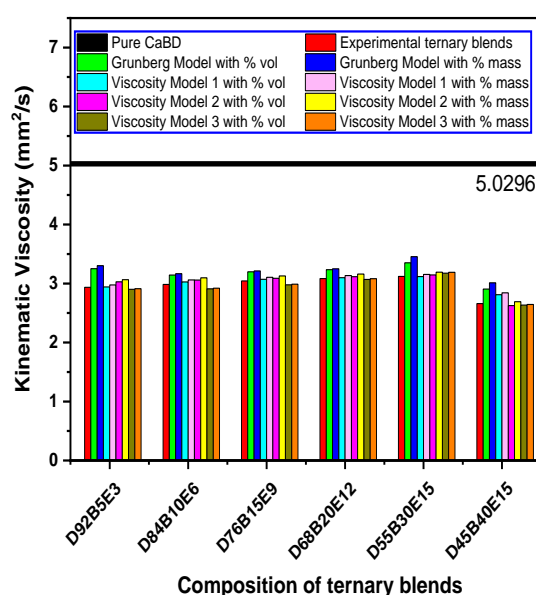


Figure 5. Cont.





(e)

**Figure 5.** Viscosity variation of (a) PBD, (b) CBD, (c) SBD, (d) MBD, (e) CaBD blends with diesel and bioethanol by experimental method, Grunberg model, and viscosity models on % volume and % mass bases.

The kinematic viscosity of coconut biodiesel and its ternary blends is illustrated in Figure 5b; viscosity of CBD measured with viscometer was observed to be  $2.7675 \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ . The viscosity of ternary blends calculated using Grunberg model increases for all blends; a sharp decrease in viscosity was observed for D55B30E15 for all three viscosity models. In Figure 5c, the kinematic viscosity of all ternary blends of SBD calculated by four proposed models shows decline up to D55B30E15 blend, and after with increasing concentration of biodiesel or bioethanol, it starts to increase. In Figure 5d, the viscosity of MBD blends calculated from all proposed models shows an increase in viscosity up to D84B10E6 blend and then starts to decrease with the addition of bioethanol and biodiesel. MBD has maximum kinematic viscosity among all biodiesels. The viscosity of CaBD and its ternary blends is illustrated in Figure 5e; the measured viscosity of CaBD is  $5.0296 \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$  at  $40^\circ\text{C}$ . All proposed viscosity models show a sharp decline in kinematic viscosity of biodiesel blends with the increase in concentration of biodiesel and bioethanol.

### 3.6. Evaluation of Viscosity Models

To validate the Grunberg model and three suggested viscosity models, each value obtained from these models was compared with the measured viscosity value using viscometer. Some statistical tools including % APE and % MAPE were also tested. Figure 6 shows APEs of all biodiesel blends on % volume and % mass bases. The MAPE obtained from three proposed viscosity models on the bases of volume fraction in percentage are 1.85, 1.41, and 3.48, respectively, while on the base of % mass fraction they are 2.27%, 1.85%, and 3.56%, respectively. For obtaining the viscosity of ternary blends with respect to volume fraction, viscosity model 2 with exponential regression analysis was considered to be the best one. The Grunberg model shows deviation for all biodiesel blends. The other three viscosity models are good enough for obtaining the viscosity of ternary blends. From Figure 6a–e, it was observed that viscosity model 2 gives the precise values of viscosity for PBD, CBD, SBD, and MBD blends, but it is not suitable for the CaBD blends. The best model for CaBD is viscosity model 1.

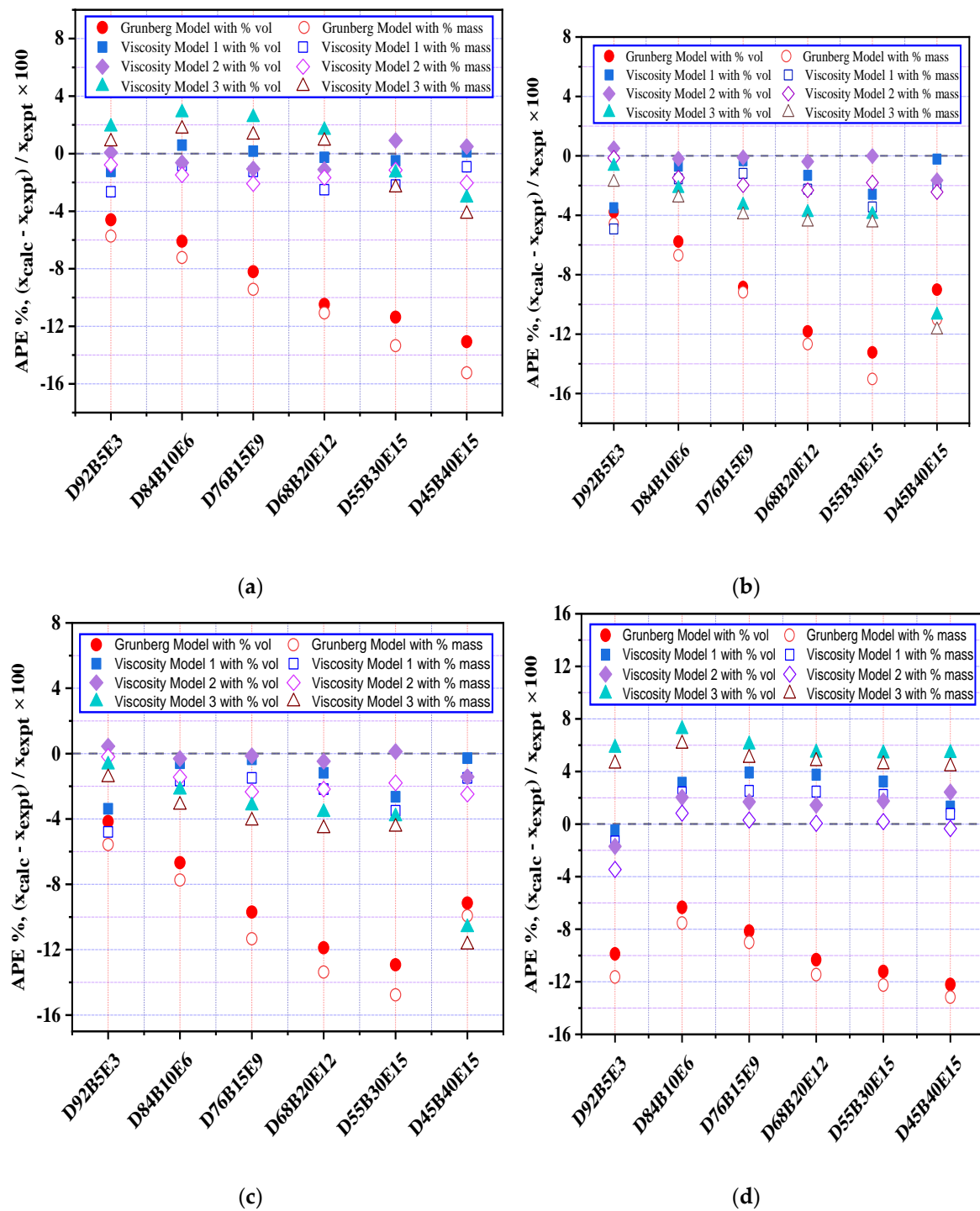
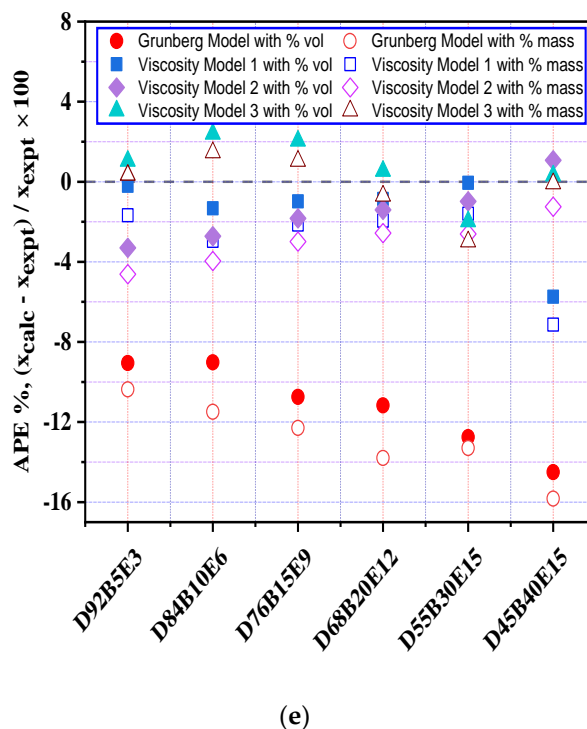


Figure 6. Cont.



**Figure 6.** APEs for Grunberg and viscosity models of ternary biodiesel blends (a) PBD, (b) CBD, (c) SBD, (d) MBD, (e) CaBD using % volume and % mass fraction.

#### 4. Conclusions

The viscosity and density of binary biodiesel blends decreases with the addition of bioethanol. In this work, two density and four viscosity models were used to predict the precise values of density and viscosity of diesel-biodiesel-bioethanol blends. These models can be helpful to determine the density and viscosity of ternary blends more accurately for temperatures ranging from 15 °C to 75 °C; outside this temperature range, the accuracy of these models will be dropped, as ethanol starts to evaporate at 78 °C. The accuracy of these models was evaluated using % APE and % MAPE statistical tools. Among density models, the newly developed density model gives more accurate results on % mass fraction, and viscosity model 2 gives the precise values of viscosity for PBD, CBD, SBD, and MBD blends, but it is not suitable for the CaBD blends. The best model for CaBD is viscosity model 1.

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## Nomenclature

PBD	Palm biodiesel
CBD	Coconut biodiesel
SBD	Soybean biodiesel
MBD	Mustard biodiesel
CaBD	Calophyllum biodiesel
HSD	High-speed diesel
APE	Absolute percentage error (%)
MAPE	Mean absolute percentage error (%)
KED	Kay's mixing rule
$\eta_{blend}$	Kinematic viscosity of the ternary blend ( $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ )
$\eta_v$	Kinematic viscosity of the ternary blends ( $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ )
$\delta_i$	Mass or volume fraction of the individual components
$\rho_{blend}$	Density of the ternary blend ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ )
$\rho_{BD}$	Density of biodiesel ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ )
D	Percentage mass or percentage volume portion of diesel in the ternary blend
BD	Percentage mass or percentage volume portion of biodiesel in the ternary blend
EtOH	Percentage mass or percentage volume portion of ethanol in the ternary blend
SD	Standard deviation
$R^2$	Coefficients of determinations
$X_{xpt}$	Density and viscosity values obtained from experiments ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ ), ( $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ )
$X_{calc}$	Density and viscosity values calculated using proposed models ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ ), ( $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ )
$\overline{x_{xpt}}$	Average value of the measured densities and viscosities ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ ), ( $\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$ )
N	Total number of observations

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